

## **QT#5: Code of Ethics**

Your Name: Jose Ramos

Due date: 02/28/2017

Section no.905

- **What do you feel is the overarching purpose this code? Is it to regulate behavior? To inspire? Who does it apply to?**

I feel that the overarching purpose of the ACM code of ethics is to serve as a basis for ethical decision making in the conduct of profession work. Also I think its purpose is to serve as a basis for judging the merit of a formal complaint pertaining to violation of professional ethical standard. In the other hand, Tesla motors is to serve as the basis principals to guide all employees, directors, and officers on an arising issue

I think that the ACM code of ethics is to regulate behavior because it mentions that their code of ethics is concerned with how fundamental imperatives apply to one's conduct as computing professional. Also, Tesla code of ethics is to regulate behavior. Tesla mention that their employees directors, and officers must conduct themselves accordingly and seek to avoid even the appearance of improper behavior.

In my understanding, I don't think ACM and Tesla code of ethics to inspire but instead is to outline their mission and values of the organization.

The ACM code of ethics applies to voting members, associate members, and students members of their association. Also, it applies to everyone that is a computing professional. Tesla code of ethics applies to all of their employees, directors and officers.

- **What is the spirit (or ethos) of the Code? Is it is list of "Thou shalt" nots, or does it allow for creativity? How so?**

Both ACM and Tesla code of ethics uses ethos which persuades professionals to follow their code of ethics. Ethos denotes the credibility of their code of ethics because both are credible sources. Both uses proper language to convey their idea.

ACM do not use the "Thou shalt" nots, it allows for creativity. ACM mention that the code of ethics can be supplemented by a set of guidelines, which provide explanations of issues contained in the code. In case their is not something clear in their code of ethics ACM will apply creativity to modify there code.

In the other hand Tesla uses a list of "Thou shalt" nots. Tesla does not mention anything about modifying their code of ethics at any point. Tesla mentions that their code does not cover every issue that may arise, but it sets out a basic principal to guide all employees. This supports the idea that their code is not meant to be modify by adding some creativity, but it is to be follow as it is.

- **Is the code intended to guide people or to set out requirements? Is it really a Code of Ethics or is it more of a Statement of Values, a Policy, a Mission Statement, a Code of Conduct...?**

I think that ACM code is intended to guide on the commitment to ethical professional conduct, personal responsibility and issues that professional might face. In my understanding code of ethics, the code includes statement of values, policies, mission statements and code of conduct. ACM statement of values mentions they aim to respect the diversity of all cultures and the rights of all humans. One of their policies include prohibition of the violation of copyright, patent and trade secrets. Another of the policies include that discrimination on the basis of race, sex, sex, religion, age, disability, and national is an explicit violation of their policy. Their mission statement states that "The Association is an international scientific and educational organization dedicated to advancing the art, science, engineering, and application of information technology, serving both professional and public interests by fostering the open interchange of information and by promoting the highest professional and ethical standards." The code of conduct includes that every member will follow the statement of personal responsibility, ethical considerations of professional conduct.

I think that Tesla code is intended to guide all employees, directors, and officers on an arising issue. Also, I think that it serves as a principle to guide on what is proper ethical behavior in a professional environment. Tesla code of ethics include a statement of values, policies, mission statements and code of conduct. The statement of values mentions that diversity of the Company's employees is a tremendous asset. That Tesla will not tolerate discrimination or harassment of any kind. One of their policies includes that an employee has to avoid any direct or indirect business connection with their customers, suppliers or competitors, so the employee private interest will not interfere with the interest of the company. Tesla mission statement states that "Tesla's mission is to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable transport." The code of conduct sets out basic principles to guide all employees on arising issues.

- **Is the code tailored to the needs and values of the organization?. Many ethics codes have two components: an aspirational section, often in the preamble, that outlines what the organization aspires to, or the ideals it hopes to live up to. And secondly typically list some rules or principles, which members of the organization will be expected to adhere to.**

ACM and Tesla code is tailored to the needs and value of their organization. I don't see why an organization will have code of ethics if it will not tailored their needs and values. Both organization will like its members to adhere personal responsibility, and to organization regulations.

- **Is there any kind of control or enforcement mechanism for the code? If so, what kind?**

ACM and Tesla do not have any control or enforcement mechanism for the code, but both encourages members(employees) to follow their guides and codes of ethics.

- **Often the principles or values listed in a Code of Ethics will be listed in rough order of importance to the organization. Is the ordering evident in the code?**

ACM listed their Code of Ethics in an order that is evident to the reader. The code consists of 24 imperatives formulated as statements of personal responsibilities, ethical issues member might face, and fundamental ethical considerations. The 24 imperatives are arranged in 4 different sections. Section 1 consists of general moral imperatives, section 2 consists of more specific professional responsibilities, section 3 consists of organizational leadership imperatives, and section 4 consists of compliance with the code.

Tesla listed their Code of Ethics in an order that is not evident to the reader. The order of the code can be rearranged and it will not change the way the employee will be guided by it. In the other hand, ACM code is listed in order of importance to the organization. Its order starts from basic to more specific.

- **Is there a mechanism for the code to be distributed/ reviewed / revised?**

ACM has a mechanism called ACM Committee on Professional Ethics(COPE) which distributes, reviews and revises the code. COPE distributes the code by promoting ethical conduct among computing professionals by publicizing the ACM Code of Ethics. When ever the code is revised COPE will make necessary updates.

Tesla does not have a mechanism to distribute, review, nor revise. Tesla mentions that the Board of Directors are the ones who reviewed and revised the code. The code is modified when ever the Board of Directors deems appropriate and when ever is required by laws and regulations.

- **How do they educate people about the code?**

ACM uses a mechanism called COPE that plans and reviews activities to educate membership in ethical decision making on issues of professional conduct. One of COPE project includes a two-year project to promote ethics in profession through modern media. COPE also provides a column for computer ethics questions.

Tesla does not have a way to educate about their code, they only encourage employees to follow guidelines of the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

**Are there major differences or similarities between the two codes? How are there differences and similarities in what is valued (*axiology*) and/or the spirit (*ethos*) of the two documents? Can you see how the two might provide conflicting ethical guidance?**

ACM and Tesla are similar as their code is used in an attempt to encourage specific behavior by their members(employees). Here are some similarities.

- respect diversity
- Be honest
- Honor property rights
- respect privacy of others

I noticed that Tesla code is more towards their own interest(investors), most of their list of code was directed to the employees who work for them ,in contrast ACM directs its code to all professional who are part of the computing industry.

Both uses ethos which persuades professionals to follow their code of ethics. I don't see how the two might provide a conflicting ethical guidance.

### **Reflection:**

I think having Code of Ethics is helpful because it acts as a guideline for ethical decision making and encourages for positive relationships within a workplace. I remember that in the first job that I had the HR lady gave me some documents that talked about the company(Foxconn) code of ethics. After reading the code of ethics I learned my rights as an employee and I also learned that I had to commit to an ethical professional conduct. All the time that I worked at Foxconn I never had any conflict nor dislikes about their code of ethics. Foxconn treated me with respect and provided me with a good working conditions. At the same time in China Foxconn was exploiting employees. Foxconn was not providing with good working conditions that lead to employees despair. I bring this up because It is weird why some companies sometimes do not follow their own code of ethics.

### **Works Cited**

"Code of Business Conduct and ethics".[ir.tesla.com](http://ir.tesla.com), Tesla 2017, <http://ir.tesla.com/corporate-governance-document.cfm?documentid=7159>

"ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct".acm, ACM, <http://www.acm.org/about-acm/acm-code-of-ethics-and-professional-conduct>